

(C O P Y)

Etheldreda House,
Ely.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1961:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1961, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

During this year, the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ely and Littleport have continued to serve the public by their duties as Ambulance Attendants.

The maintenance of these services in the future is becoming more and more uncertain as demands of work and age are throwing an impossible burden on those willing shoulders who remain.

It is a great tragedy that the call from the ill and injured falls on deaf ears, with the result that there are no recruits forthcoming to the St. John Divisions.

(b) Nursing and Clinic arrangements:

These are the same as for previous years. Once again, I must pay tribute to "our Nurses" for their wonderful efforts carried out in such an unobtrusive manner.

(c) Hospitals:

(i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.

(ii) St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases and long-stay cases.

(iii) The Grange Maternity Home.
These three Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:

(a) The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from one well and three boreholes at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham.

The plant, including that for the chlorination of the water, has worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

There were no major breakdowns in the pumping main during the year.

During July, there was a minor breakdown at Prickwillow which was rectified in 2-3 days.

The water supply for the District will shortly be the responsibility of the new Water Board; whose intention it is to link the source at Isleham with that of the Ely Rural District source at Beck Row. A new main is to be laid from Isleham to the new Water Tower, which is to be built near the Royal Air Force Hospital, at Ely. The Tower will serve both Ely Urban and Ely Rural Districts.

The Consulting Engineers are now preparing schemes for this.

(b) (i) Four bacteriological examinations were made during the year by the Public Health Service Laboratory at Cambridge.

(ii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(iii) The quality and quantity of water has proved satisfactory. No contamination was discovered during the year and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.

(iv) It is calculated that 4% of houses in the District are without a proper water supply; 1% are supplied by standpipe; and the remaining 95% of houses have a proper water supply.

4. SEWAGE:

(i) Extensions: No extensions were made in 1961.

(ii) Sewage Disposal Works:

These continue to function efficiently, and the effluent continues to prove to be satisfactory.

After waiting for so many years for these Disposal Works, I am inclined to feel that a visit to them should be included in any sight-seeing tour of the City by visitors.

(iii) Stage 1 of the Sewerage Scheme was put up to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government in the Autumn of 1960, as stated in my last Report. The Ministry made a number of suggestions, which were investigated and considered during the year.

(iv) There has been no improvement in the condition of the Prickwillow Disposal Works, and these continue to deteriorate. I am sure that drastic action is now only "just round the corner".

(v) There is no doubt that, in my opinion, the provision of main drainage for the whole of Prickwillow and also for Stuntney will have to be considered in the comparatively near future.

5. HOUSING:

During the year the seven Bungalows, now comprising "Walpole Court" - were completed. This has made a most delightful and peaceful haven for some of the City's "old folk".

It is satisfactory to record that tenders have been received for the first seventy houses which will form part of "Priors Court" (formerly the West Fen Camp site); and that Ministry approval has also been obtained.

With the completion of these houses it will again become possible to go forward more rapidly with Slum Clearance - a project which I know the Council views with great concern and which they are desirous of giving the utmost priority to.

It is essential that houses of bad standard should be dealt with as rapidly as possible. I hope that a definite allocation of new houses will be possible, in due course, as this will assist considerably in any slum clearance plans,

(a)	Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health ...	approx. 200
(b)	Number of preliminary notices served	12
(c)	Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-	
(i)	The serving of notices requiring the execution of works	NIL
(ii)	The making of demolition orders	NIL
(iii)	The making of closing orders	2
(d)	Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works	NIL
(e)	Number of houses demolished	3
	Number of houses closed	1
(f)	Number of houses made fit	2
(g)	Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936	NIL
(h)	Inspection referring to Certificate of Disrepair	NIL

Improvement Grants made = 19.

(Discretionary 4)

(Standard

15)

Total = £2,944.

6. SCHOOLS:

I have no comments to make.

7. MILK:

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, operating since April 1959, is still in force. This Order prohibits the retail sale of raw milk.

7. MILK: (cont.)

When the subject of milk is considered, the dangers of the transmission of tubercular infection frequently comes to the fore, and it is either forgotten or unknown that other forms of infectious disease can be spread by infected milk. I must point out that, so far as milk-bourne infectious diseases are concerned, efficient Pasteurization is the only answer.

Once again, I ask those offenders among the general public, who continue to use milk bottles to hold fluids other than milk, to desist from this frankly, filthy and highly undesirable practice.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 220 notifications of infectious diseases were received. The total is made up as follows:-

Measles	204
Whooping Cough	1
Pneumonia	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Sonne Dysentery	1
Infective Hepatitis	1

Total 220

Apart from the frequency of measles occurring in the District, the incidence of infectious disease has been negligible. During the past five years, the only massive outbreaks of notifiable infectious diseases have been measles, fortunately of a very mild type and with very few complications.

I am quite unable to give any reasons, why this particular disease should be so prevalent.

(b) Again, I have to report, with the greatest satisfaction, that no case of diphtheria occurred in the District. I know, however, that by no means every child has been immunized against this killer-disease. To ensure that the District is kept free of this infection, every child must be immunized in infancy.

Immunization against poliomyelitis continues to be carried out by general practitioners and in the County Council Clinics.

(c) Tuberculosis: 3 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

	<u>Respiratory:</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory:</u>
Males	22	-
Females	17	3

Compared with 1960, the total figures show a decrease of 1 case.

Looking back over the past thirty-five years, it is extremely interesting to note how the position of tuberculosis in the community has changed. With modern drugs and careful supervision the morbidity and mortality caused by tuberculosis shows a great improvement. Many cases can be safely cared for at home, thereby releasing many Sanatoria beds for other purposes.

There is no doubt that Mass Radiography Units have played an important role in this battle.

9. FOOD:

(a) Premises:

(i) 11 premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food.

(ii) 39 premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no Ice Cream manufactured for sale in the area.

(iii) There is one private Slaughter-House in the District. During the year most of the essential alterations and improvements were done. There are, however, a few outstanding items, which must be completed, before another licence can be granted.

The long standing policy of the Council that meat inspection is carried out by a local Veterinary Surgeon has been continued. If proposed new legislation definitely comes into force, this policy will have to be reconsidered.

Number of animals slaughtered = 5,566.	(Cattle	1307.
	(Pigs	3443.
	(Sheep	783.
	(Calves	43.

Number of carcasses inspected = 5,566.

(iv) The following are food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	11
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Grocers	12
Greengrocers	11
Licensed Premises	41
Sweets and Tobacco	10
Wet and Fried Fish	5
Wholesale Warehouse	1
School Kitchens	4
General Stores	17
Ice Cream	2
Brewery	1
Vegetable Wholesalers	1

(b) Food Hygiene:

Unfortunately, I cannot report any material change for the better in food hygiene in the District.

Good employers continue in their efforts to maintain their high standards, and to keep their employees as keen as they are themselves. They are to be congratulated, once again.

The careless and indifferent employers continue to be careless and indifferent, with the result that in most cases their employees follow their example. These are to be definitely condemned.

From the statistics given in the previous paragraph, some idea of the size of the job can be got, particularly if it is realised that adequate supervision of food handling premises cannot be maintained by one or two visits during each year. Neither can supervision be maintained by a hurried visit of a few minutes only.

9. FOOD: (cont.)

Until the Public Health Department staff is enlarged, I am unable to hope for any material improvement in this most important sphere; unless, of course, other work is neglected.

Last year, I referred to the advantages to be gained, if the Educational Authorities were to include in the school curriculum for the older children, some instruction in food hygiene. This could well result in improvement in home food hygiene, (which continues to be deplorable in far too many homes) but it could also result in those children, when they reach adult life, refusing to deal with shops maintaining a poor level of hygiene.

(c) Unsound Food:

The following items of food were surrendered unfit for food and destroyed:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Weight</u>			
		<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
Corned Beef	63 tins.	3	-	8	-
Corned Mutton	8 tins.	-	1	9	8
Jellied Veal	2 tins.	-	-	12	-
Ox Tongue	21 tins.	-	1	7	8
Luncheon Meat	21 tins.	-	1	14	7
Cooked Ham	7 tins.	-	1	21	13
Shoulder	3 tins.	-	-	27	14
Other Meat	27 tins.	-	-	24	14
Pressed Beef Brisket	-	-	-	18	-
Brawn	-	-	-	6	-
Tinned Fruit	176 tins.	1	1	1	6
Tinned Vegetables	43 tins.	-	1	14	13
Tinned Fish	24 tins.	-	-	15	8
Tinned Soup	49 tins.	-	1	4	3
Tinned Tomatoes	50 tins.	-	2	1	1
Tinned Puddings.	1 tin.	-	-	-	10½
Tinned Milk	39 tins. (53 pints)	-	-	3	15
Cream	1 jar. (4 fluid ozs.)	-	-	-	-
Sauces	4 bottles.	-	-	1	10
Ravioli	2 tins.	-	-	-	15
Rusks	1 packet.	-	-	-	6
Cake Mixtures	14 packets.	-	-	10	-
Cereals	4 packets.	-	-	2	8
Tapioca	1 packet.	-	-	-	8
Mixed Fruit	1 packet.	-	-	-	12
Rice	1 tin.	-	-	-	15½
Onions	3 jars.	-	-	-	15
Steak & Kidney Pie	3.	-	-	2	14
Horseradish	12 jars.	-	-	3	12
Treacle	4 tins.	-	-	4	5
Fruit Juice	6 tins.	-	-	6	7
Nes Tea	1 jar.	-	-	-	2
Coffee	1 jar.	-	-	-	2
Baby Foods	5 tins.	-	-	1	6
Conserve	1 tin.	-	-	2	-
Jam	1 jar.	-	-	1	-
Jam	1 tin.	-	-	1	8
Marmalade	1 tin.	-	-	1	4
Meat Paste	24 jars.	-	-	1	1
Orange Squash	4 bottles.	-	-	-	-
Dog Food	19 tins.	-	-	-	-

Destroyed by request: 18 lbs. half-coated Coconut Mallows and 14 lbs. Mint Mallows.

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

During the year, once again, there have been no outstanding problems.

Any verminous property discovered was fumigated and badly infested property, if too bad for steam disinfection, was destroyed.

(ii) Shops:

As many of these as possible have been inspected. Inspections have not been by any means comprehensive on account of scarcity of time.

(iii) Rodent Control:

The year has been a busy one for the Rodent Operator: 2062 inspections and re-inspections, with 34 agricultural premises in addition, have been carried out. 230 properties were found to be infested, and 331 treatments and re-treatment were carried out. In addition 5 agricultural properties required 4 treatments and re-treatments.

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

5 prior approvals for installation of furnaces were given during the year. Also 1 prior application for grit arrestors was given where the consumption of fuel was greater than one ton per hour. There were a further 2 notifications of installations in addition to the above.

The stench of Diesel fumes from lorries etc., continues to fill the nostrils of the citizens of Ely, certainly producing varying degrees of nausea, and most probably other ill-effects in later years.

(v) Moveable Dwellings:

All the previous sites in the District have been inspected, as a result of the new Act. Occupiers of Caravans have carried out the necessary work to bring conditions up to the model standards, with the exception of 5 caravans. These were ribbon-development on an approach to the City. As this was unsuitable the Council decided to have a municipal site to accommodate these five caravans, which had been given licences for a run down period.

The site should be completed within the next few months and will take up to 10 Caravans.

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non-mechanical and 57 mechanical factories on the register.

I must point out that Sanitary accommodation must be provided for the use of workers on building and engineering operations.

During the year, a case arose where some workmen were repairing a railway bridge for British Railways. There was no sanitary accommodation provided, and it was found that the Factory Act does not apply to railways.

My view is that even if the provision of sanitary accommodation under these conditions is not compulsory, it is just as necessary from a public health point of view, as anywhere else.

10. MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the City.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

Plans are being considered for the replacement of the Chlorination Plant before next year's season.

(ix) Refuse Tip:

There has been considerable improvement here, particularly since the bull-dozer, which was so wisely purchased by the Council, came into use.

(x) Markets:

Here again, constant supervision cannot be maintained on account of lack of time and staff. A few stall holders continue to invite trouble by smoking when handling food.

Hot water has been made available in the public conveniences.

(xi) Noise:

Over the past twenty-five years one subject on which I have made no comments, is that of Noise.

However, during the past ten years, noise generally has increased enormously, at times to an almost intolerable degree. Aircraft overhead, of varying sizes and speeds; lorries, of varying size and age, a few private cars and most motor cycles all add together to produce a cacophony, which wearies the ear, frets the nervous system and at times disturbs the sleep of many of Ely's citizens. It must be admitted that in our present civilization, aircraft, lorries and many cars are an essential and inevitable part of our transport system. But one can only condemn the infernal nuisance caused by the noisy motor cycles which roar round the City at certain times, apparently without any aim or object. If Ely could be relieved of these, only good would result to the nervous systems of its citizens.

11. PERSONAL:

The Surveyor & Water Engineer, Mr. J. V. G. Shilston, left Ely in June and Mr. G. R. Stroud took his place. I am very grateful to both my colleagues and their Staff for much help and advice given so readily during the year - and I wish them both the best of luck.

Mr. J. I. Billington took Mr. Watkins place as Clerk of the Council, and I wish to place on record, my best thanks to them both.

And I must also say thank you to my colleague, the Public Health Inspector, Mr. John Bryan for his help.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies & gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE-SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

4th September, 1962.